



Office of the Attorney General
State of Texas

DAN MORALES
ATTORNEY GENERAL

June 30, 1998

Mr. Jeffrey D. Herrington
Criminal District Attorney
Anderson County Courthouse
500 North Church Street
Palestine, Texas 75801

OR98-1567

Dear Mr. Herrington:

You ask whether certain information is subject to required public disclosure under the Texas Open Records Act, chapter 552 of the Government Code. Your request was assigned ID# 116432.

The Anderson County Judge (the "county judge") received an open records request for "the arrest warrant affidavit in the Carlina Pearce case." The requestor seeks documents that are records of the judiciary, which is specifically excluded from the provisions of the Open Records Act. Gov't Code § 552.003(1)(B). Consequently, these records need not be released under the Open Records Act. Attorney General Opinion DM-166 (1992). *But see id.* at 2-3 (public has general right to inspect and copy judicial records), H-826 (1976); Open Records Decision No. 25 (1974); *see also Star Telegram, Inc. v. Walker*, 834 S.W.2d 54, 57 (Tex. 1992) (no privacy interest in information contained in public court documents).

We are resolving this matter with an informal letter ruling rather than with a published open records decision. This ruling is limited to the particular records at issue under the facts presented to us in this request and should not be relied upon as a previous determination regarding any other records. If you have questions about this ruling, please contact our office.

Yours very truly,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Kay Hastings", is written above the typed name.

Kay Hastings
Assistant Attorney General
Open Records Division

KHH/RWP/mjc

Ref.: ID# 116432

Enclosure: Submitted document

cc: Ms. Swandala Dennis
Reporter
KETK-Region 56
4300 Richmond Road
Tyler, Texas 75703
(w/o enclosure)